

Andrew Jackson to James Ewell, October 19, 1828, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

To JAMES ELWELL.1

1 Copy. Handwriting of A. J. Donelson.

Hermitage, October 19, 1828.

D'r Sir, Yesterday, at church, I received your letter of the 18th instant. Whilst I regret the unpleasant situation in which you are placed, candor compels me to say to you, that it is intirely out of my power to relieve it by complying with your request. I am now, and have been for some time, without money—having no income but that arising from the labour employed on my farm. the shortness of the last years crop, and the low price of cotton left me indebted: and the ravages of the worm upon my present crop, I fear, will render me unable to close my necessary accounts at the end of this year.

I never desired wealth on any other account than that of relieving the distresses of worthy men; and I assure you that the want of it for this purpose was never more sensibly felt than now. But I cannot alter the course of things, and must submit to the mortification of informing you that it is out of my power to comply with your request.

With great respect